simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

5. Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines: The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.

6. Jan Kerosene Pariyojna: To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.

7. Smart Card Scheme: With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

Bio-fuel from sweet corn

4397. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to explore the possibility of extracting bio-fuel from sweet corn on the line of Jatropha fuel; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to explore the possibility if extracting bio-fuel from sweet corn and to what extent the sweet corn bio-fuel can help the needs of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Ministry of New and

Renewable Energy, which is the nodal Ministry for the bio-fuel, does not have any scheme to produce bio-fuel from sweet corn.

(b) Does not arise.

Security of Gas Pipeline

4398. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic viability and security implications of the Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project have been examined by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard to ensure safety from all angles including possibility of terrorist attack, accidents, sabotage, etc. before the said gas pipeline is laid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian side had appointed Ernst & Young as the Financial Consultant and ILF, UK as the Technical Consultant for preparation of the pre feasibility report of Iran Pakistan India Pipeline Project.

The project has been found to be feasible. The price of gas against the alternate fuel prices will determine the economic viability of the pipeline project. Iran has given a formula for determining gas price at the Iran-Pakistan border. Two other issues namely Transportation Tariff and Transit Fee are under discussion between India and Pakistan. Once these issues are decided, the price of gas at Pakistan, India border would be known and then, a decision on the purchase of gas through Iran-Pakistan-India Pipeline Project will be taken. As per current indications, pipeline within Iran upto Iran-Pakistan Border will be laid and operated by an agency to be nominated by Iran. Iran has offered to sell gas at Iran-Pakistan Border and all responsibilities for the safety and security of the pipeline within Iran will vest with Iran. In the Pakistan Territory, out of 1035 KMs, 800 KMs pipeline will be carrying the gas for both Pakistan and India. The safety and security for the pipeline and gas within Pakistan would be provided by the Pakistan Government for which a Transit Fee would be levied. Discussions on all these issues are continuing.